

Last week, on Veterans Day, we honored the service and sacrifices our nation's veterans have made, a sacrifice which I remind myself of every day. Although we can never adequately thank our brave veterans and troops for their service to our nation, we humbly salute them and their families for their sacrifice, and as a Member of Congress, I am committed to making certain that America takes care of her sons and daughters and that their contributions are never forgotten. Below I have listed a few websites that may be useful for veterans, active military, and their families, as well as information about several pieces of legislation that the House has passed this year and signed by President Obama.

Please visit these websites for more information on military family and veterans issues

- Post/9-11 GI Bill information - <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
- National Archives, Military Records - <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>
- Department of Defense, Family Support <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>
- Department of Veterans Affairs - <http://www.va.gov/>

You can read my statement made last [weekend about Veterans Day here](#) .

Priority Legislation Passed By the House

### **H.R. 3082 – FY 2010 Military Construction/VA Appropriations**

- Adds \$14.5 billion to the FY2010 budget and provides funding for FY2011 to ensure the best care for America's wounded warriors in the future.
- The largest veterans funding increase ever requested by a President!
- Awaiting action in the Senate - <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:S.1407>:

[\*\*H.R. 1211\*\*](#) , **Women Veterans Health Care Improvement Act**, would expand and improve VA services for the 1.8 million women veterans.

[\*\*H.R. 3219\*\*](#) , **Veterans' Insurance and Health Care Improvements Act of 2009**, gives veterans greater flexibility in their insurance choices and ensures that veterans are able to plan appropriately for their financial security.

[\*\*H.R. 3949\*\*](#) , **Veterans' Small Business Assistance and Servicemembers Protection Act of 2009** , addresses reintegration challenges for veterans and provides enhanced protections for veteran-owned small business, deployed service members, and family members of veterans.

Priority Legislation Passed By the House and signed by President Obama

***Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-81)***

- President Obama signed legislation giving Congress the authority to fund VA medical accounts one year ahead of schedule (October 22, 2009).

***Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-32)***

- Expands the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill to cover the full cost of college for surviving military children by creating the “Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry” scholarship to provide education benefits to children of deceased active duty service members.

***The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5)***

- Provided an economic stimulus payment of \$250 to disabled veterans receiving VA compensation or pension.

From the Department of Veterans Affairs

### Agent Orange Veterans

- VA announced it establish a service-connection for Vietnam veterans with three specific illnesses (B cell leukemias, Parkinson's Disease, and ischemic heart disease) based on evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to as Agent Orange. As a result, veterans no longer will have to prove an association between these illnesses and their military service. <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/>